

Senator ENZI had been talking about. We need patients to get the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. That is what Republicans are committed to, and that is what Republicans, in spite of today's ruling by the Supreme Court, will continue to work for.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, hopefully, we can move on. After a Presidential election, two Supreme Court cases, 60-plus votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act in the House of Representatives, and endless debates here in the Senate, maybe now is the moment where Republicans will choose to close the books on trying to strip away from millions of Americans the benefits they have received from the Affordable Care Act. This is an important day for over 10 million Americans who have health care right now because of the Affordable Care Act. I would argue it is an important day as well for the separation of powers and the recognition that it is the legislative body that sets the policy for this country.

I just wanted to come down to the floor for a few minutes to express my hope and my desire that proponents of the Affordable Care Act—such as myself, Senator STABENOW, and Senator BALDWIN—who have come down to the floor over and over during the course of the last 3 years don't have to do it anymore. I would love to come down to the floor and talk about the need to fix our transportation system or the need for mental health reform. I would love to talk about tax reform. I have come down to the floor over and over to defend the Affordable Care Act simply because it has been perpetually under attack despite the fact that its successes are now unparalleled.

Justice Roberts, in the decision today—I won't quote from it at length—said: "Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them." That is essentially the operative phrase in today's decision. We passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance marketplaces, not to destroy them, and that is what it has done. It has improved marketplaces all across the country. Why? Because people have voted with their feet. The 10 to 11 million people who signed up for either expanded Medicare, Medicaid coverage or these exchanges have shown us that the law works as in-

tended because they didn't stay out or deem it to be unaffordable. They stepped in and bought coverage.

We should now be in the business of perfecting this law. None of us, frankly, think that this law is perfect. Many of us are open to conversations about how to make it better and how to perfect it. Now that the Supreme Court has completely shut the door to a judicial repeal of the act, and after having debate after debate, hopefully it is clear that there are not the votes—nor the support, obviously, in the executive branch—to repeal the act, and we can move on to something else.

This is an old chart of mine that I have in the Chamber. I brought this down to the floor several months ago when a colleague of ours suggested that the administration shouldn't be celebrating the successes of the Affordable Care Act, as if people receiving health insurance for the first time in their life wasn't something to celebrate, as if 17 million children with preexisting conditions who will never have their health care taken away from them wasn't something to celebrate, and as if 9.4 million senior citizens who are saving \$15 billion on drugs isn't something to celebrate. I get excited when I talk about the Affordable Care Act not only because it is a really sober and important topic but because when I talk to my constituents back home, they are excited. They are bubbling over with enthusiasm. Those of them who never had the chance to get health coverage before the Affordable Care Act and those who worried every single night, sick that their child wouldn't be able to live a normal life because their existence would be obsessed with whether they were able to cover their complicated illness with insurance, are bubbling over with enthusiasm.

There are millions of people who are celebrating this decision today, and it is a sober day because, hopefully, we will be able to have a conversation about how we can move on to another topic. But it is a day to celebrate, not only for the 6.4 million Americans, first and foremost, who would have had their insurance taken away by an adverse decision, but for all Americans who would have been caught up in an insurance death spiral had the decision gone the other way.

I hope we can limit our discussions about the Affordable Care Act to ways in which we can make it work better.

So I hope we can now spend more time talking about other topics that matter to this country. I hope the House of Representatives decides to give up this obsession with repealing the Affordable Care Act, which is something that is simply not going to happen. And for its opponents out in the field, the Supreme Court has shut the doors to a judicial repeal of the Affordable Care Act today.

I think of a lot of stories when I think about what the Affordable Care Act has meant to the people of Con-

necticut. We have cut our uninsurance rates in half in Connecticut. We have one of the best running exchanges in the country. But one of the simplest stories is the only one I will convey as I wrap up this morning.

I was at the community pool that my family goes to in Cheshire, CT, and I was in the pool with my then 2-year-old just shortly after passage of the Affordable Care Act.

A young man about my age came up to me, and he said: Listen, I am sorry, Mr. MURPHY, to disturb you; I know you are here with your son, but I have a little boy, too, and he has a congenital heart problem. Every single day since he has been born, I have worried that he wouldn't get to live out his dreams because his life decisions would be dictated by whether or not he could get insurance to cover all of the complicated health care needs he is going to have and that would be determinative of his path in life, not his dreams, his desires for himself.

He said: I get it that this is going to help a lot of people in very practical and economic ways, but I just want to thank you because now I sleep better at night knowing that my son is going to be able to get covered, that my son is going to be able to lead a relatively normal life, and that he can be whatever he wants to be.

That is the benefit the Affordable Care Act brings people. It is not just practical. It is not just economic. It is not just the battle over whether somebody has health insurance. It is psychological. It is peace of mind.

The Supreme Court protected 6.4 million people from losing their health insurance today, but they also protected tens of millions of patients and parents and sons and daughters and grandparents from losing that peace of mind that comes with the protections from an Affordable Care Act that is working.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

KING V. BURWELL DECISION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, earlier today the Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling in *King v. Burwell*. As we now know, the Court has once again decided to rule against common sense and the plain meaning of statutory language in order to uphold the poorly drafted Affordable Care Act—which, by the way, Justice Roberts says has a lot of ambiguity and poor draftsmanship. Even worse, with today's decision, the Court's ruling failed to hold the Obama administration accountable for its reckless execution of its own law.